

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:T.R.MARTIN/US-IBWC:J.F.FRIEDKIN:GLG

APPROVED BY ARA:J.B.KUBISCH

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ARA - W. G. BOWDLER

PA/PP - WILLIAM TOOMEY

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P 161541Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN GOVERNOR OF

CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO

UNCLAS STATE 179892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

1. APPRECIATING YOUR LETTER OF JULY 15, I ASKED COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION TO CONFER AGAIN WITH MAYOR WILSON OF SAN DIEGO REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT. THE MAYOR INFORMED FRIEDKIN OF MEETINGS THAT HAD BEEN HELD WITH STATE AUTHORITIES, AND OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THEM WHEREBY THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE STATE COULD CONTRIBUTE 4.7 MILLION DOLLARS TOWARD THE PROJECT, SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATE STATE LEGISLATION. BELIEVING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THIS AMOUNT MIGHT BE REGARDED AS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS AUTHORIZING THE PROJECT, FRIEDKIN HASTENED TO WASHINGTON TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN

FEDERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL, SO THAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE MIGHT BE SO INFORMED AT HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 20.

2. WHILE STILL ENGAGED HERE COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CITY'S OFFER WAS BASED ON A MISCALCULATION AND THAT THE STATE AND HENCE THE CITY MUST REDUCE THE OFFER BY 1.6 MILLION. THIS REDUCTION WOULD MEAN THAT THE CITY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF THE U. S. CONGRESS, NAMELY, THE FURNISHING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY. THE RESULT WOULD NOT

BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE BENEFITS TO THE CITY AND THE STATE AS WAS DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF FRIEDKIN WITH THE MAYOR.

3. PLEASED WITH THE CITY'S FIRST OFFER, THE DEPARTMENT IS MOST DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN OF THE POSSIBLE REDUCTION. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT OF COURSE SPEAK FOR THE CONGRESS, I MUST STATE THAT SUCH A REDUCTION FROM THE 4.7 MILLION FIGURE MAY WELL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OFFER THAT ALL FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MAY ACCEPT WITHIN THE ACT OF CONGRESS AND AN OFFER THAT THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FEEL THEY MUST REJECT. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF WE SHOULD JEOPARDIZE THE PROJECT AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF THE CITY OR THE STATE NOT CARRYING OUT THEIR PROPOSAL.

4. I HOPE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL URGENTLY RECONSIDER AND WILL PROVIDE ALL THE ASSISTANCE IT POSSIBLY CAN TO THE CITY IN THIS DOMESTICALLY DIFFICULT BUT INTERNATIONALLY VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. BECAUSE THE STATE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS AT THE END OF THE MONTH, PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR FURTHER VIEWS BY TELEGRAM.

- - - - - JACK B. KUBISCH  
- - - - - ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
- - - - - INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS KISSINGER

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